GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2783
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
PROMOTION OF HERBAL TREATMENT
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Singh Shri Suraj

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether herbs are being used for medical treatment in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said medical treatment has proved to be effective and inexpensive; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) : Yes, sir. The practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine make use of herbal remedies for treatment of patients. Folk healers also use herbs in treatment of patients using local health practices.

(b) & (c): Acceptability of the traditional systems of medicine predominantly based on herbs and their growing demand in India and abroad proves the effectiveness of the treatments. Cost effectiveness of herbal treatment at the level of household use or use of self made medicines by practitioners is by and large attributable to availability of most of the medicinal plants in wild and low technological inputs required for preparation of medicines. However, with commercial production of packaged herbal medicines with all the attendant quality control requirements and cultivation of medicinal plants due to increasing demand are leading to increase in cost of herbal medicines.